

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 25, 2002.

The Specification has been amended at page 3 to obviate the objections of Par. 1 of the Office Action.

The comments of the Examiner in Par. 2 of the Office Action are not understood. There is no requirement for a "Parts List" in the "Arrangement of the Specification" set forth in the Office Action. A Parts List will be included as required by the Examiner.

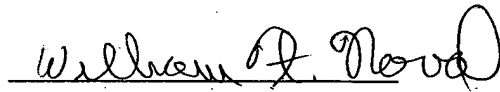
The claim objections raised on page 3 of the Office Action have been obviated by the amendments to claims 1 and 4.

The rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Toth is traversed. Toth discloses a CT scanning system including an x-ray slice through a patient to a photodiode array. The x-ray source does not rotate about an axis is perpendicular to the direction of moving a digital image capture device, but rather about a center of rotation 24 parallel to the patient and photodiodes. Moreover, the matrix of photodiodes capture a narrow slice of x-rays (20mm to most) and are not "a large area capture device" as recited in the claims. Moreover, patient 22 is mounted on a table 46 which "moves portions of patient 22 through a gantry opening 48" (Col. 3, lines 44-45). In claim 1, the patient or object being x-rayed is kept stationary and not moved as disclosed in Toth. Clearly, the claims are novel and nonobvious over Toth and should be allowed.

Speedy allowance of this application is therefore solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,


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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In The Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning page 2, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a feature of the present invention, there is provided a method for acquiring an elongated radiographic image comprising: positioning an elongated object between a source of x-rays and a digital image capture device having a known imaging dimension which is less than a like dimension of said elongated object; moving said device in a direction parallel to said known imaging dimension to sequential contiguous positions to acquire a sequence of radiographic images of said elongated object; and rotating said source of x-rays about an axis perpendicular to said direction of moving said device in coordination with said moving in order to project said x-rays from said source toward said device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention has the following advantages.

1. Eliminates the stereovision-like geometric distortion caused by the current imaging method with DR systems[, and [allows]
2. Allows precise registration of the partial images to reconstruct a larger composite image.

In The Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract beginning on page 7, line 2 with the following rewritten abstract.

A method for acquiring an elongated radiographic image comprising: positioning an elongated object between a source of x-rays and a digital image capture device having a known imaging dimension which is less than a like dimension of [said] the elongated object; moving [said] the device in a direction parallel to [said] the known imaging dimension to sequential contiguous positions to acquire a sequence of radiographic images of [said] the elongated object; and rotating [said] the source of x-rays about an axis perpendicular to

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[said] the direction of moving [said] the device in coordination with [said] the moving in order to project [said] the x-rays from [said] the source toward [said] the device.

In The Parts List:

Please include the following Parts List beginning on page 5, line 1.

PARTS LIST

- 100 patient
- 101 x-ray tube and collimator
- 102 -ray coverage
- 103 screen-film
- 200 patient
- 201 x-ray tube and collimator at a first location
- 202 x-ray coverage at a first location
- 203 DR detector at a first location
- 206 x-ray tube and collimator at a second location
- 207 x-ray coverage at a second location
- 208 DR detector at a second location
- 210 moving axis of x-ray tube and collimator from a first location to a second location
- 211 moving axis of DR detector from a first location to a second location
- 300 patient
- 301 x-ray tube
- 302 x-ray coverage at a first detector location
- 303 DR detector
- 305 x-ray coverage at a second detector location
- 310 x-ray tube rotation axis
- 311 moving axis of DR detector from a first location to a second location
- 320 image processor

In The Claims:

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In The Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as set forth below:

1. (Amended) A method for acquiring an elongated radiographic image comprising:
positioning an elongated stationary object between a source of x-rays and a digital image large area capture device having a known imaging dimension which is less than a like dimension of said elongated object;
moving said device in a direction parallel to said known imaging dimension to sequential contiguous positions to acquire a sequence of radiographic images of said elongated object; and
rotating said source of x-rays about [an] a first axis perpendicular to said direction of moving said device in coordination with said moving in order to project said x-rays from said source toward said device.

Claim 4 has been amended as set forth below:

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein [aid] said source of x-rays is rotated about an axis the distance of which from the x-ray focal spot of said source is far less than the distance from said source of x-rays to said image capture device.

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